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WHY

SHOULD I BE AN

AUXILIARY?

By M. S. N.

"But go rather to the lost of the house of Israel."

TORONTO.

2233

Why Should I be an Auxiliary?

I.—The Need.

"Of all the things which God has made, the human heart is that which sheds most light, and, alas, most night."

Nobody can deny the fact of the sin-disease in this world of ours. It is a stern reality confronting us at every step in an almost infinite variety of form and phase. Every thinking mind recoils with horror, every feeling heart

quivers with pain when the existing evil is individualised and brought for a time into startling relief in the person of some one offender more daring than the rest of his kind. A Jack the Ripper's abnormal fiendishness, or a deliberately plotted cold-blooded Cronin murder brings to a common platform of wondering horror and more determined effort philanthropists and social reformers of every class and type, every shade of belief and opinion. Again and again the question is echoed: "What is to be done? Is there any salvation for the lowest, the criminal stratum of society, any way of bringing it up from spiritual darkness and lawlessness to light and liberty?" Many a noble life has been ardently

devoted to the discovery of a remedy and its practical application, — but every purely human lever has failed, must always fail. A divine power must be implanted in the heart, a something "not ourselves" must "make for righteousness" from within.

II.—The Answer.

All true Christians agree in believing that the one and only adequate answer to the sin-problem lies in the salvation purchased for humanity by our Lord Jesus Christ. All other methods fail as straws to stem the onward rush of a Niagara. We aim at the eradication of the cause—sin, rather than at the suppression of its effect—vice.

"The world sits at the feet of Christ,
Unknowing, blind, and unconsoled;
It yet shall touch His garment's fold,
And feel the heavenly alchemist
Transform its very dust to gold."—

WHITTIER.

III.—Our Quest.

"Never on custom's oiled grooves,
The world to a higher level moves."

"In the Salvation Crusade our special object is to ferret sin out of its hiding places, and banish it from the human heart."—COMMISSIONER BOOTH-TUCKER.

Everybody who knows anything about the Salvation Army is also well aware of the nature of its quest—to

bring the souls of men "under the government of Christ." This is our "Holy Grail," for whose blessed vision we are content to become "as strangers and pilgrims on the earth," to toil and suffer the loss of all things. We live for the salvation of all, but seek chiefly the great non church-going class, comprising the roughest elements of society, the lowest, the vilest, the thief, the drunkard, and the outcast. Ordinary methods failed to reach these social outlaws; therefore, we have tried, under God's direction, extraordinary methods which have been crowned with success in countless instances. When the Army forgets its raison d'être—the compulsion of the highways and hedges into the Christ King-

dom of righteousness and peace—it will simply collapse like a pricked bladder. It is scarcely necessary to add that we are not anticipating so dire a catastrophe.

IV.—Our Army Friends.

(*a*) WHO THEY ARE. Wherever the Army has been stationed in Canada and elsewhere, God has raised up a host of friends and well-wishers who attend our meetings, and often testify to the blessings received therein. "Thank God for the Salvation Army," is reiterated on all sides by many who neither feel themselves called upon to serve in its ranks, nor even to take a prominent share in its work.

(*b*) WHY THEY LOVE THE ARMY. Because, seeing the good accomplished, they are content to lay aside their personal predilections and to rejoice with us over the salvation and reformation of many a man, many a woman who, until the Army came, was a festering plague spot in their special town and neighborhood.

(*c*) WHY SHOULD THEY NOT ALL JOIN OUR AUXILIARY LEAGUE? We know of no good reason to the contrary,—and cordially invite our Army friends, to avail themselves of this opportunity, not only of subscribing to our work, but also of boldly declaring themselves in active sympathy with our aims and movement. We do not ask nor yet expect them to endorse all

our methods, but simply to give us their support as far as they conscientiously can.

"To every slander and vilification, to every buffeting and persecution, we are able to return our answer—men are saved! Christ is lifted up! God is glorified! If you believe all this, you ought to help us forward. If you are not satisfied that it is all true, you ought to enquire and search until you are, and to help us then."

COMMISSIONER BOOTH-TUCKER.

V.—"Lend a Helping Hand."

"How?" do you ask, dear Army friends? In many ways, all comprehended in the object of our Auxiliary

League which is established on a basis of sufficient breadth to admit all our sympathizers, Christian, reformer, temperance advocate, whoever you are, who love your human brothers and sisters, and are unable to rest satisfied while the majority is living and dying in the great cess-pool of iniquity. We shrink, however, from seeing our Auxiliary League only in the light of a subscription list, desiring rather that it may become a widely extended, far reaching stream of richest blessing and mutual helpfulness.

(1) PRAY FOR US. Pray always that God will keep us a one-motived, a pure motived society, living only for His glory and the service of all. Join with us in our world-wide prayer at half-

past twelve every day that God may bless us and make us more desperate in our attack upon the kingdom of darkness.

(2) Help us with your INFLUENCE whenever and wherever you can.

(3) Help us BY DIFFUSING OUR literature. Few, we believe, can arise from a careful perusal of our General's or Mrs. Booth's books, not to mention a host of other Army publications, without being themselves better men and women, as well as having their interest excited, and their sympathy aroused in the various and ever-increasing branches of our work.

(4) HELP US FINANCIALLY by subscribing to our League. Although we everywhere endeavour to make our work, as

far as possible, self-supporting, there are yet many cases where assistance is urgently needed from our friends and supporters. Our Rescue Homes are still in their infancy, and are not yet able to walk alone. Gifts of food or of cast-off clothing are ever thankfully received. There are also our Training Homes for cadets, our Home of Rest for sick and invalided officers, not to mention many other sources of constant demand upon our resources. In short, every fresh departure, every new effort, to which our friends often strongly urge us, means a corresponding and increasing need of money. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us and we have unwavering confidence in His ability and willingness to supply our

every need, but He uses human channels. Will you not let Him use you, dear auxiliaries and friends?

M. S. N.

The subscription to the Auxiliary League is five dollars per annum. This will entitle each member to a copy of the "War Cry" or "All the World," mailed free of charge for twelve months. A special badge, in the shape of a small pin, will also be furnished, which can worn if desired, and a leather case containing a card of membership, the production of which will secure a hearty recognition and greeting in any Army meeting, both in Canada and abroad.

Cheques and P. O. Order should be made out in favour of

T. H. ADAMS,
Dominion Headquarters,
Cor. James and Albert Sts.,
Toronto, Ont.

N.B.—Please send all communications to same address.